



## **Agricultural Working Group Fact Sheet**

### **Carter Run, Great Run, Thumb Run and Deep Run TMDL Implementation Plan**

**Why Do A TMDL Implementation Plan (IP)?** A TMDL IP is a requirement of Virginia’s 1997 Water Quality Monitoring, Information, and Restoration Act, which directs the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to “develop and implement a plan to achieve fully supporting status for impaired waters”. By developing an IP, a community has a better opportunity to receive state and federal grant funds and even other sources of funding to restore water quality.

**How Can I Participate?** The primary means of public participation in this TMDL IP process will be through one of three working groups; agricultural, residential and government. The working groups provide citizens a venue for active participation in the planning process. Each working group will report its results and suggestions to the steering committee for consideration to be included in the TMDL IP document. Strong public participation in these groups ensures a final IP driven by local input and concerns.

**What will the Agricultural Working Group address?** The Agricultural Working Group will address the sources of bacteria in the impaired streams attributed to agricultural operations, any obstacles to implementation of agricultural load reductions, and practical solutions to these obstacles. The group will focus on the following tasks:

1. Identify constraints to the implementation of BMPs
2. Consider alternative BMPs that are both effective and more affordable for the participants
3. Identify alternative funding sources/partnerships that will promote implementation
4. Identify appropriate staged measurable goals (i.e., 50% of stream fenced, 50% of water quality violations reduced)
5. Identify timeline for achieving implementation goals
6. Review implementation strategies from an agricultural prospective

Implementation of the agricultural load reductions will consist of decreasing direct deposition of fecal matter to the streams by livestock and reducing overland delivery to the streams during storm events.

**Who Makes up the Agricultural Working Group?** Agricultural working groups typically consist of individual farmers and landowners, local citizens organizations, and local and state agency representatives.

### **Comments/Questions raised in previous Agricultural Working Groups**

- A whole farm approach may improve the situation for obtaining implementation.
- Would the opportunity to install water systems alone (w/o streamside fencing) be part of a staged approach to encourage participation? It would help to allow extra time (~5 years) for installation of practices due to limited number of contractors in area.
- Farmers/landowners who lease land may have a problem with a 10-15 year commitment. Getting participation from absentee landowners may be an obstacle.
- Some people just won't participate if it means government involvement in their lives.
- Keep BMP choices simple and few (3-4 options). How much of the practices do the various government programs pay for?
- Offering education in rotational grazing, alternative water systems, and farm economics may encourage participation. This education can be done through grazing club meetings or pasture walks. Farmer to farmer discussion/observation is the best way to encourage participation.
- Programs should target both full-time and part-time farmers.
- Education must be a key component of the plan.